

## INFORMATION REPORT

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19 January 1954

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## REFERENCES

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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DATE DISTR. 20 Nov. 1953

SUBJECT Provincial Office of Central Fisheries, Opole

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 Organization

1. The provincial office of Central Fisheries in Opole N 50-40, E 17-57 (Wojewodzkie Biuro Centrali Rybnej) was located at Warynski Street No. 2. Central Fisheries was the state enterprise through which the Ministry of Internal Trade (Ministerstwo Handlu Wewn-etrznego - MHW) controlled the entire fish industry. Control was exercised mainly through plans drawn up in the office of the Central Fisheries in Warsaw. These plans assumed complete control of all salt and fresh-water fish catches; plans for distribution were based on the catches. Results of these plans were:
  - a. Price control in the form of stable prices. (If prices fluctuate, they generally rise, not fall.)
  - b. An attempt to force the sale of fish in no particular demand.
  - c. A limited and minimum distribution of fish in demand. The remaining fish were apparently exported.
2. Initial stages of organization of Central Fisheries took place in 1947. it was first introduced in the city of Chorzow N 50-18, E 18-58. In 1952 it was given the name of Central Fisheries. The biggest problem which arose was the setting up of a suitable and workable accounting system. In the Province of Opole, for example, the provincial office of Central Fisheries made use of a very disorganized and inaccurate accounting system for about six months. The result was an extremely distorted

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picture of the true status of Central Fisheries in that particular province. Records of supply and distribution were in complete chaos and reference to existing accounting records was useless. No satisfactory accounting reports were sent to Warsaw and, more important, the planning department of this branch was at a loss in drawing up distribution plans from an undetermined supply as far as records were concerned. The fact that the State reserve supply was kept in the same state-owned refrigerator added to the general confusion and made distribution plans more difficult to formulate. At the end of six months, however, the Communist Party drafted Joseph Leszczynski, a leading Polish accountant, who organized and set up a more efficient system of accounting.

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Supply

4. [redacted] annual supply of fish. There were three main sources, namely:

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- a. Salt-water fish from Gdynia /N 54-30, E 18-33/ and Szczecin /N 50-49, E 21-59/. There were two organizations, ARKA and DALMOR, which were the primary funnels of distribution to the "wholesalers", or provincial offices, for the supply of salt-water fish. Both organizations received their plans of distribution from the Warsaw office and shipped quantities of fish to the provinces specified in the plan. [redacted]

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- b. Fresh-water rivers and lakes. All fresh-water catches were made by the Fishing Industry Bases (Bazy Zarybniowe) which were state-controlled enterprises.
- c. State-owned ponds for breeding and raising fish. These breeding places were under control of the State Farms (Panstwowe Gospodarstwa Rolne - PGR). Ponds or lakes used for breeding purposes were located on these farms. Carp was the fish most commonly bred.

Shipping

5. The carp catch, referred to as the Carp Act (Akcja Karpjowa), was usually made in the fall and winter months. The carp were transported alive in railroad tank cars, each capable of carrying about three tons of fish. Upon arrival, they were picked up by the provincial office and placed in tanks, containing fresh water, mounted on trucks; later they were put in tanks belonging to that office.
6. Carp was the only kind of fish transported alive. Other fish, for example cod, were shipped in railroad cars refrigerated with chopped ice. Prior to shipment from Gdynia the heads of the cod were removed and the fish eviscerated. As soon as the fish were eviscerated, they were iced and shipped by rail on a strict priority basis. Shipping regulations were stringent. For example, in shipping fresh fish by rail to the outlying villages through the Central Farmers' Cooperative, the regulation read that fresh fish were not to be held at railroad stations for longer than two hours. If it was established that the fish were spoiled in transit, the railroad was held responsible. There were numerous instances in which the railroads deferred shipment of industrial items to expedite the shipment of fish or were forced to pay for fish spoiled because of delays in shipping.

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Refrigeration

7. The fish picked up by tank truck were separate consignments. Some were taken to the tanks belonging to the provincial office and some were taken to the state-owned refrigerator (chlodnia skladowa) located in the city. Of those stored in the refrigeration plant some were earmarked for the State Reserve, some belonged to the provincial office, and some could be assigned to a neighboring provincial office which lacked refrigeration space for the fish allotted to it. A greater number of fish were allotted to the State Reserve than were set aside for distribution and sale.

25X1 8. [ ] the refrigeration depot in Opole was adequate  
with respect to both space and refrigeration. [ ]  
25X1 [ ] Visitors were permitted at that time in celebra-  
25X1 tion of the opening of the plant, a special occasion, it was said,  
25X1 because the plant, in its entirety, was made of Polish products.  
25X1 Two refrigerating machines were housed in a room approximately  
16 m. x 30 m. and plans called for their use alternately or as  
spares in case of breakdown. The room reeked of ammonia. [ ]  
25X1A [ ] no serious or recurrent breakdowns and only a negligible  
quantity of fish were spoiled, not enough to cause serious concern.  
This could be attributed to the fact that the temperature was  
25X1 closely watched and negligence was punishable by wage reductions, a  
measure probably adopted by the management of the plant which was  
25X1 held responsible and suffered the loss if fish were inedible because  
of over-freezing or spoilage. [ ]  
25X1 [ ] a large amount of fish spoiled in the Krakow  
/N 50-05, E 19-55/ refrigeration plant.

9. The refrigerators in Bytom /N 50-21, E 18-58/ and Wroclaw /N 51-06,  
E 17-02/ were usually filled when there was a good catch; fish al-  
25X1 loted to both the State Reserve and the provincial office were  
stored. And, despite the fact that the provincial office was not  
25X1A compensated for transporting State Reserve fish to the refrigera-  
25X1A tor, the office was required to pay rent for storage space used.  
[ ] rental costs [ ] must have been high because the  
directors always feared that profits would be consumed by rent. [ ]  
there were 2,000,000 zloty worth of fish stored there.

25X1 10. There were no cold storage facilities in retail stores and few in  
25X1 private homes. Further, [ ] no facilities in army installa-  
tions; the 2nd Tank Regt. in Opole had no means of refrigeration.

11. The provincial office was responsible for killing the carp which  
arrived alive to be stored in the refrigerator. This included fish  
allotted to the State Reserve. The live fish were delivered to the  
refrigeration plant for killing and eventual storage. There a crew,  
equipped with an electrical rod, was sent by the provincial office  
to kill the carp. Between 40 and 50 kilos could be killed with  
the rod at one time. The fish were not eviscerated.

Canning Factories and Fish-Oil Extracting Plants

25X1 12. [ ]  
25X1 [ ] factories located in the following cities:  
25X1A Gdansk, /N 54-21, E 18-40/, Zielona Gora /N 51-36, E 15-30/ (which  
25X1 had the largest factory); Gezysko (near Olsztyn); Koszalin; Wroclaw;  
Chorzow. [ ]  
25X1 [ ]  
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Export of Fish

14. Fish allotted to the State Reserve usually were earmarked for export.

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25X1 [redacted]  
 25X1 [redacted] In  
 25X1 April 1952, Communist Party headquarters requested two candidates  
 25X1 to accompany a rail shipment of fish over the border. [redacted]  
 25X1 [redacted] After the men were chosen they were thoroughly  
 investigated as to political reliability and were required to have  
 a knowledge of refrigeration methods despite the fact the fish  
 were to be shipped in cracked ice.

Retail Outlets

15. The following were retail outlets of the provincial office which acted as wholesaler or middleman:

- a. The Municipal Retail Trade Store (Miejski Handel Detaliczny - MHD) which sold general supplies (groceries to furniture).
- b. General Cooperative of Provisions (Powszechna Spoldzielnia Spozycow), the same type store as the MHD. In the General Cooperative, however, one could buy membership. There was talk that it would eventually be liquidated and that the Municipal Retail Trade Store would be the only type of large-scale cooperative.
- c. Central Farmers' Cooperative (Centrala Rolnicza) which controlled retail selling in counties and villages.
- d. Gastronomic Institutions (Zaklady Gastronomiczne) which were state-owned restaurants.
- e. Railroad restaurants (restauracja kolejowa).
- f. Factory casinos (stolowki).
- g. UB (Security Police).
- h. Army.
- i. Hospitals.
- j. Service to Poland (Sluzba Polsce - SP).

16. No more than 100 kg. per day were taken from the refrigerator by the provincial office for fear the fish would spoil. These could not be taken without approval from Warsaw, despite the fact that the Warsaw office formulated the plans for sales, distribution, and storage. Actually, spoiling was not a special or recurring problem. The fish did not seem to spoil [redacted]

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[redacted] However, being held accountable for fish which had spoiled appeared to be feared. The responsibility for spoilage was not only assumed during transportation but was assumed in turn by the provincial office, by the attendants at the state-owned refrigerators, and by the retailers. This resulted in careful estimates in requests for fish unless a quick turnover in sales was assured. It appeared that one considered it safer not to fulfill the assigned quota for sales than to be proven guilty of spoilage. The provincial office offered a guarantee of three days on the fish. After that time even if fish were in retail inventory, the loss on spoilage was borne by the retailers. It was, therefore, necessary for the retailer to determine the actual freshness of the fish, particularly unprocessed fish which rarely spoiled before three days. The loss on smoked fish was usually borne by the provincial office since smoked fish spoiled within two days if it spoiled at all.

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Quotas

17. The monthly quota for the sale of fish was determined by the Warsaw office. This office decided upon the kind of fish to be sold, the amount, and the price. The fact that the provincial office may have had a sufficient amount of fish on hand was not taken into account. These plans were dispatched from the Warsaw office at the beginning of each month. The plan listed the forthcoming shipment, cod, flounder, herring salmon, eel, etc., with specified amount, and stated further that the provisional office was expected to dispose of a certain specified percent of the shipment, or of the supply on hand in the state refrigerator, during the month. This percent represented the monthly quota. The quota was received by the planning department of the provisional office and subsequently allocated to the various retailers within the province. The retail outlets were expected to fulfill their quota within the month.
18. No special premiums or bonuses were given in retail outlets for fulfilling quotas. In the provincial office all employees, except typists, were entitled to a premium (a certain percentage of the salary of the employee based on the maintenance of the monthly quota for sales). Specifically, if the plan was 98 to 100 % fulfilled, employees of the provincial office collected 50% of this bases pay. For each figure over 100, two per cent was added, the final figure not to exceed 64%. For fulfilling the quota between 90 and 98%, employees collected 30% of the base pay. No premiums were given when the quota was below 90%. [redacted]
- 25X1 that, on an average, two quarters of each year did not see fulfillment beyond 80%. This could have been for various reasons. The Warsaw office may have unloaded too much cod on the Polish market and cod did not sell well. There were times, too, when fish did not sell despite a continuing shortage of meat.
19. In addition to the monthly report on the sale of fish, the provincial office was expected to send a report to Warsaw every three days. Copies of the distribution plan, prepared by the planning department and sent through the sales department, were forwarded to the Warsaw office as well as to the provincial presidium of the People's Council. Distribution was made to the provincial presidium because it submitted weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports to Warsaw on the fulfillment or nonfulfillment of the plan. Although in all telephone conversations fish were referred to by cryptonyms, in reports forwarded by mail cryptonyms were not used since all mail was classified "Secret" and handled by the UB.

Prices and Rationing

20. Carp in the early fall of 1952 sold for 12 zlotys a kilogram wholesale and for about 14 zlotys retail. The retail market thus enjoyed a markup of about 16%. The wholesale price of cod at that time was four zlotys a kilogram with the fish retailing at 5.25 or a markup of about 30%. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
21. There was generally a shortage of the following kinds of fish: anchovy, mackerel, sardines, herring, and a fish known as "Byczek" which was usually preserved in small wood casks or glass jars. The more plentiful varieties were rarely rationed unless there was a shortage.
22. The army, including the air force, and the UB usually took between 15 to 20 tons of fish per month and picked up the fish themselves. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]

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Personnel of Opole Provincial Office

23. Central Fisheries in Opole had an allocated job complement of 48 employees but [redacted] only 44 persons were employed, 14 of whom were laborers and 30 office workers. Sixty per cent of the workers were women. The total monthly wage for the 44 persons could not exceed 10,000 zlotys. Names of certain employees follow:

- a. Director: KAROLEWICZ (fnu). Placed by the Communist Party.
- b. Chief Accountant: Jozef LESZCZYNSKI.
- c. Chief of the Department of Trade: Janina BIJAK (Miss) ..
- d. Chief of Personnel: myself.

These four persons represented the Executive Committee in the Opole Provincial Office and implemented policies established by the Warsaw office.

Planning Department

- e. Director of Planning: Wanda GUT (Miss).
- f. Clerk: Janina PATOLA (Miss).
- g. Clerk: Wanda WITKOWSKA (Miss),

Accounting Department

- h. Jozef BILYNSKI (In addition to Jozef LESZCZYNSKI).
- i. Head bookkeeper: Jadwiga WIESALA (Mrs.)
- j. Assistant bookkeeper: Elizabeth JABOCZEK (Miss),
- k. Clerk: Jadwiga Krakowska (Miss(?)).
- l. Clerk: Emilia GALLUS (Mrs.)
- m. Clerk: Maria JALKOWSKA (Miss),
- n. Maria BILYNSKI (Mrs.)

Transportation Department

- o. Tadeusz WALNIK

Administrative Department

- p. Director of Administration: Mikolai WASZYLEWSKI.
- q. Senior Clerk: Janina STANKIEWICZ (Miss).
- r. Secretary: Cecilia BIELAN (Miss).
- s. Typist: Helena PYTLIK (Miss).
- t. Inspector of Fish: Kazimierz BURGER

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- u. Social Service Director: Maria POREMSKA (Mrs.).
- v. Supply Clerk: Regina MAJGER (Miss).

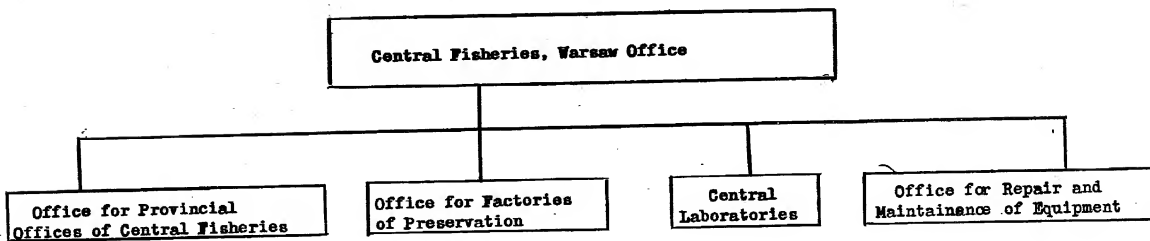
Annexes:

- A. Organization Chart of Warsaw Office for Central Fisheries
- B. Organization Chart of the Provincial Office of Central Fisheries in Opole (Schemat Organizacyjny Wojewodzkiego Biura Centrali Rybnej w Opolu).

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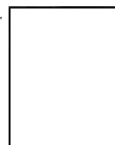
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Annex A.  
Organization Chart of Warsaw Office for Central Fisheries

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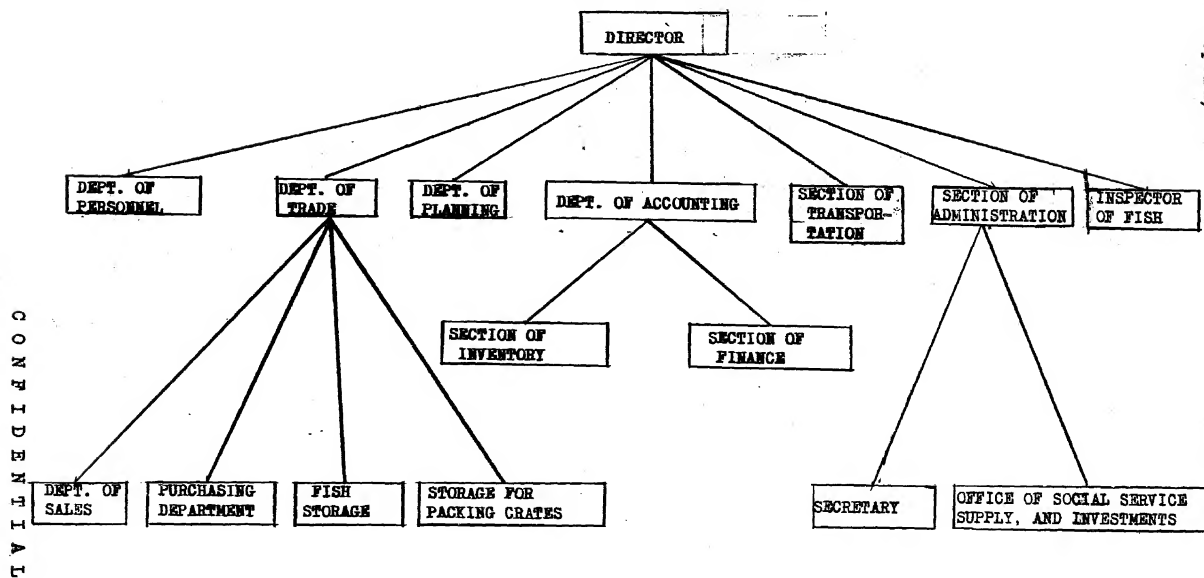
## Annex A

Explanatory Notes on Organization Chart of Warsaw Office for  
Central Fisheries

The Warsaw Office of Central Fisheries was comprised of the following five departments:

1. Central Fisheries Enterprises in Warsaw (Centrala Rybna Zarzad Przedsiębiorstwa w Warszawie). This office controlled the sources of supply, and drafted plans for the distribution and sale of fish.
2. Office for the Provincial Offices of Central Fisheries (Wojewodskie Biuro Centrali Rybnej). Distributed plans drafted by the Warsaw office to the provincial offices. Matters of policy were channeled through this office to the various provincial offices; received distribution and sales reports from each of the provincial offices.
3. Office for Preserving Factories (Zakłady Rybne). Maintained direct contact with those factories which can and process fish. Received production reports from preserving and processing plants.
4. Central Laboratory (Laboratorium Centralne). Primarily concerned with the preservation of fish. [redacted]  
[redacted]
5. Office for the Repair and Maintenance of Equipment (Zakłady Remontowo-Montazowe). [redacted]  
[redacted] The largest and most complete workshop for such repairs was located in Szczecin. Major repair work was handled by the Szczecin office which sent engineers or mechanics to any part of Poland. Equipment was also sent to the workshop itself for repair.

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## Annex B

Explanatory Notes on Organization Chart of Opole Provincial Office

25X1 Director: KAROLEWICZ (fnu); one of four members of the Provincial  
 25X1 Committee which executed distribution plans dispatched from the  
Ministry of Internal Trade

Personnel Department (Personalny). This department handled all personnel work including the hiring of new employees. Worked with the Communist Party in checking reliability of employees.

Department of Trade (Dzial Handlowy). Consisted of the sales and purchasing departments; also handled problems pertaining to the storage of fish.

Department of Planning (Dzial Planowania). Received distribution plans from the Warsaw office; planned for 100 % sales performance and for distribution of fish to retailers.

Accounting Department (Dzial Ksiegowosci). Besides keeping its own records, this department sent periodic reports to Warsaw on supply and distribution. Included in the department were the inventory and finance sections.

Transportation Section (Sekoja Transportowa). In the Province of Opole this section operated two heavy trucks which picked up fish deliveries from the railroad station. Retail outlets made their own pickups from the provincial office.

Administrative Department (Seckja Administracyjna). General office work was done in this department. A secretary was in charge of incoming and outgoing mail, all of which was classified. The Office of Social Service, Supply, and Investments (Seckja Socjalna, Zaopatrzenia, Inwestycja) was also within the department. Social service activities of the office were concerned with pre-school children of mothers employed in the company. Investments dealt with the repair and maintenance of buildings.

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